

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, RO
SUBJECT: "PASSPORT DISSIDENT" ON MINERS' STRIKE

REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 2021 (NOTAL): (B) 77 BUCHAREST 8494 AND
PREVIOUS

1. FORMER "PASSPORT DISSIDENT" LUCIAN OLTEANU (PLEASE PROTECT), WHO REACHED AUSTRIA AND WAS RETURNED TO ROMANIA FROM BUDAPEST AS DESCRIBED REF A, GAVE EMBOFF INFORMATION ON EVENTS ARISING FROM JIU VALLEY MINERS' UNREST LAST SUMMER AND AUTUMN. OLTEANU STATES HE ACQUIRED THE INFORMATION DURING CURRENT STAY IN BUCHAREST FROM A FORMER GIRLFRIEND WHO IS THE DAUGHTER OF SECURITATE COLONEL NAMED TROCAN, WHO IS SAID TO WORK IN "SPECIAL FORCES FOR COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE." HIS DAUGHTER HAD ALLEGEDLY SEEN SOME SECURITATE FILES, AND WAS ALSO GIVEN SOME INFORMATION BY HER FATHER.

2. --ONE OF THE MINERS' LEADERS, (FNU) DOBREI, DISAPPEARED WITH HIS ENTIRE FAMILY IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1977. SUBSEQUENTLY, A GROUP OF MINERS WENT TO BUCHAREST TO DETERMINE HIS FATE, BUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS--INCLUDING CEAUSESCU--REFUSED TO RECEIVE THEM. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO AN EARLIER REPORT, DOBREI HAD BEEN SENT TO CRAIOVA,

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WHILE RCP IDEOLOGIST ION MITRAN TOLD DCM IN NOVEMBER THAT DOBREI WAS STILL EMPLOYED IN JIU VALLEY AREA.) --FOLLOWING STRIKE, A LARGE NUMBER OF METAL WORKERS AND OTHERS--OLTEANU SAID 25,000--WERE SENT BY SPECIAL TRAINS AND BUSES FROM HUNEDOARA TO THE JIU VALLEY, AND IT WAS THEY AND A SPRINKLING OF SECURITATE PERSONNEL ALSO DRESSED IN NEW MINERS' CLOTHING WHO WELCOMED CEAUSESCU

IN NOVEMBER. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD PROVIDE EXPLANATION WHY "MINERS" WHO ASSEMBLED FOR CEAUSESCU'S NOVEMBER 9 SPEECH AT PETROSANE, WHICH WAS CARRIED ON LIVE TV, WERE SO IMMACULately TURNED OUT AND ENTHUSIASTIC. AS NOTED REF B AND PREVIOUS, CEAUSESCU'S GREETING BY HITHERTO DISCONTENTED MINERS WAS TOO WARM TO ESCAPE SUSPICION.)

-SINCE THE UNREST, OVER FOUR THOUSAND MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SENT OUT OF JIU VALLEY TO THEIR ORIGINAL AREAS, MAINLY DOBRUA; THEY HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SOLDIERS, SOME SECURITATE PERSONNEL, AND NEWLY HIRED MINERS. MINERS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE JIU VALLEY, AND A BONUS OF 3,000-5,000 LEI IS OFFERED WORKERS TO TRANSFER TO KIU VALLEY MINES.

3. COMMENT: WHILE INFORMATION COMES VERY INDIRECTLY, WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT SOURCE, AND INFORMATION IS PLAUSIBLE. DRASTIC MEASURES SUCH AS LARGE-SCALE, PURGE OF MINERS IMPLICATED IN UNREST WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH INDICATIONS OF INTENSE GOR EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE UNREST AND PREVENT ANY RECURRENCES.

SIMONS

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